

Message Text

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ORIGIN COA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-11 SCI-06 EPA-04

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DRAFTED BY S/FW-COA:HLHEYMANN:CJP

APPROVED BY S/FW-COA:HLHEYMANN

EA/J - MR. DANKERT

COMMERCE/NOAA - MRS. FOX

EUR/SOV - MR. ARMITAGE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 051569

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EFIS SENV JA

REF: TOKYO 2067, TOKYO 3287, STATE 227302

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION: US BOYCOTT OF
JAPANESE PRODUCTS

1. BOYCOTT AGAINST JAPANESE IMPORTS ORGANIZED BY U.S.
(NONGOVERNMENTAL) CONSERVATION GROUPS TO INFLUENCE JAPAN
TO PHASE OUT COMMERCIAL WHALING HAS RECEIVED FAVORABLE
AND RATHER WIDE PUBLICITY IN U.S. WITH GENERAL DECLINE
IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND EFFECTS OF ENERGY SHORTAGE, IT
DIFFICULT TO GAUGE IMPACT ON SALE JAPANESE GOODS.
HOWEVER, AT LEAST ONE LARGE AMERICAN CANNING CONCERN HAS
WARNED JAPANESE SUPPLIERS THAT IT MAY HAVE TO ABANDON
IMPORTATION JAPANESE FOOD PRODUCTS, BECAUSE OF ADVERSE
EFFECT BOYCOTT IS HAVING ON ITS SALES. ACCORDING TO
CONSERVATION GROUPS, A SUPERMARKET CHAIN INTENDS TO TAKE
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SIMILAR ACTION. PRESIDENT KATAYANA OF NISSAN MOTOR

CORPORATION IN USA HAS WRITTEN JAPANESE CONSUL GENERAL,
LOS ANGELES, THAT HIS QUOTE COMPANY HAS RECEIVED
HUNDREDS OF LETTERS FROM CONCERNED PEOPLE WHO ARE SAYING
THEY WILL NOT PURCHASE DATSUNS OR ANY OTHER JAPANESE
PRODUCTS UNTIL THE EXCESSIVE KILLING OF WHALES IS STOPPED.
END QUOTE

KATAYANA INDICATED CAMPAIGN PARTICULARLY EMBARRASSING FOR
NISSAN, WITH ITS ECOLOGY-ORIENTED QUOTE DRIVE A DATSUN,
PLANT A TREE END QUOTE PROGRAM; EXPRESSED VIEW PROTESTS
REFLECTED GENUINE CONCERN AND ASKED THAT VIEWS BE PASSED
TO GOV'T OF JAPAN.

2. TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING U.S. POSITION FOR COMING
IWC MEETING IN JUNE, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE AS
ACCURATE ASSESSMENT AS POSSIBLE OF IMPACT OF BOYCOTT IN
JAPAN AND WHAT EFFECT IT MIGHT HAVE ON JAPANESE POSITION
AT IWC MEETING. WE REALIZE THERE MAY BE LITTLE HARD
INFORMATION AVAILABLE, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S
APPRAISAL FROM ITS CONTACTS AND JAPANESE PRESS.

3. FOR MOSCOW: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY VIEWS ALONG SIMILAR
LINES YOU MAY HAVE ON REACTION IN USSR. KISSINGER

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